(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Lifting of foodgrains from Central Pool stocks is continuing as before.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Procurement of paddy/rice during the current Kharif Marketing Season 2003-04 is in progress. It is estimated that the total procurement of rice would be around 20 million tonnes. As on 3.12.2003 the total procurement of rice was 90.62 lakh MT as compared to 86.43 lakh MT in the corresponding of last year. The stocks of wheat and rice available in Central Pool are enough to meet the requirement of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System and Welfare Schemes.

Sugar stocks with mills

†1000. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugar mills in the country are showing more sugar stocks as compared to their actual stocks; and

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the States where more sugar stocks have been shown by the sugar mills alongwith the quantity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) In order to ascertain the actual stock of sugar with the sugar mills inspections are carried out periodically. In addition, sugar factories are asked to send information on stocks after due verification by Central Excise Authorities from time to time. The variance in stock, if any, is duly corrected and the releases of levy and non-levy quota of sugar are made accordingly.

Restructuring of FACT

1001. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government have any plan to restructure the Fertilizer and Chemical of Travancore (FACT) in its bid to make its disinvestments a viable proposition;

(b) whether Government have decided to waive the outstanding interest, moratorium on repayment of principal amount on Government loan and reduction in interest rate on other outstanding Government loans; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) The financial restructuring packages approved by the Government in respect of The Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) are detailed below:-

Phase I : (Approved in March 2002)

(i) Waiver of outstanding interest amounting to Rs. 226.88 crore for the period from 1998-99 to 2001-02 on the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) loan drawn from the Government of India (GoI) by FACT for its Ammonia Project (AP) at Udyogmandal;

(ii) Moratorium on principal repayment up to 31.3.2002 on the balance OECF loan amounting to Rs. 378.20 crore drawn from GoI; and

(iii) Waiver of penal interest for past defaults in repayment of principal and interest on the above loan.

Phase II : (Approved in October 2003)

(i) Waiver of outstanding interest of Rs. 87.80 crore on GoI loans of Rs. 497.20 crore as on 31.3.2003 along with waiver of penal interest for past defaults up to 31.3.2003.

(ii) Moratorium on repayment of principal on GoI loans as on 31.3.2003 amounting to Rs. 497.90 crore up to 31.3.2004 to be repaid in 10 equal annual instalments from 2004-05 onwards.

(iii) Reduction in interest rate of GoI loans of FACT as on 31.3.2003 to 7% *w.e.f.* 1.4.2003 from the existing rates of 13.50%—16%.

(iv) Deferment of interest payment on outstanding GoI loans as on 31.3.2003 up to 31.3.2004. The deferred interest shall be converted into loan on 31.3.2004 and repaid along with outstanding principal as at (ii) above.

In addition, the Government has also decided to extend financial assistance to FACT, the quantum of which is to be decided after inter-ministerial consultations, for implementing voluntary retirement scheme in the company.

Disinvestment in Rajasthan

1002. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the sectors in Rajasthan which are under consideration for disinvestment;

(b) the details of the public sector companies in the State where disinvestment process has already been initiated;

(c) whether Government have overlooked on reviving sick PSU's in the State either by Central funding or private participation; and

(d) if not, the details of the reviews thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Disinvestment is being considered in five Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) namely, (i) Hindustan Salts Ltd., (ii) Instrumentation Ltd., (iii) Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., (iv) Rajasthan Electronics and Instruments Ltd., (REIL) and (v) Sambhar Salts Ltd., which are located in Rajasthan and in one Hotel property of ITDC located at Jaipur.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Government has taken steps for the revival of PSUs in Rajasthan through disinvestment to Strategic Partners. Hindustan Zinc Ltd. has already been disinvested in 2002 and its functioning and profitability have improved since disinvestment. In the case of